

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 /027 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JMORDWAY:AVW
APPROVED BY S/PRS:JMORDWAY
S/S - MR. GAMBLE

-----192001 114993 /41

P R 191949Z FEB 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS STATE 038952 TOSEC 020156

FOR CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE, SATURDAY, 19 FEBRUARY

NO. 27

HEREWITH EXCERPTS FROM STUART AUERBACH ARTICLE HEADLINED,
"PLO: 'HAPPY' ABOUT HUSSEIN'S TROUBLES"

BEGIN: BEIRUT, FEBRUARY 18: LEADERS OF PLO SAID HERE
TODAY THAT THEY HOPED REVELATIONS THAT KING HUSSEIN HAS
BEEN ON CIA PAYROLL WOULD DERAIL CURRENT ME PEACE EFFORTS.

A CANVASS OF 5 MAINSTREAM PLO LEADERS IN BEIRUT, INDICATED
THAT IT IS CONSENSUS OF PALESTINE MOVEMENT'S UMBRELLA
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ORGANIZATION THAT THEY CAN USE REVELATIONS TO RESIST PRE5-
SURE TO GO TO PEACE TABLE AS SUBJECTS OF JORDAN.

A GROUP OF TOP LEBANESE EDITORS KNOWN FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE
CONCURRED PRIVATELY THAT INFORMATION HAD PLACED NEW POLI-
TICAL WEAPONS IN PALESTINIANS' HANDS.

PALESTINIANS HAVE BEEN GRUDGINGLY ALLOWING THEMSELVES TO BE
PRESSURED BY SYRIA, EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA INTO A RECON-
CILIATION WITH JORDAN'S HUSSEIN, LONG CONSIDERED ARCH-ENEMY

OF PALESTINIANS IN ARAB WORLD.

..."I'M VERY HAPPY ABOUT THIS," SAID ONE OF THE PLO LEADERS
IT'S THE BEST THING THAT'S HAPPENED IN WEEKS. IT WILL
HELP US. EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS."

ONLY YESTERDAY, EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT HAD URGED IN TALKS
WITH SECSTATE VANCE THAT PLO ACCEPT "OFFICIAL AND DECLARED"
LINKS WITH JORDAN. VANCE IS TOURING REGION IN SEARCH OF
PEACE FORMULAS.

CLOSE OBSERVERS OF THE ARAB SCENE SAID THAT REVELATIONS
ABOUT HUSSEIN COULD DAMAGE AND EMBARASS SYRIAN PRESIDENT
ASSAD, WHO HAS BEEN DRAWING VERY CLOSE TO JORDANIAN MONARCH

IT IS SEEN AS INEVITABLE THAT ARAB LEADERS WHO ATTEMPT TO
COOPERATE WITH THE U.S. WILL BE ACCUSED OF BEING TOOLS OF
CIA.

SOME OBSERVERS SAID IT WILL BE HARDER FOR ARAB LEADERS TO
ACCEPT CARTER'S INVITATION FOR THEM TO VISIT WASHINGTON
THIS SPRING TO CONFER ON A PEACE SETTLEMENT, WHICH U.S.
OFFICIALS HAD FELT WAS CLOSER NOW THAN ANY TIME IN PAST
30 YEARS.

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IN A PART OF THE WORLD WHERE MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE IN PLOTS
AND CONSPIRACIES, REVELATIONS THAT ONE ARAB LEADER HAS BEEN
PAID BY CIA MEANS THAT NO ARAB LEADER CAN ESCAPE THAT
CHARGE.

...WHILE PLO DECLINED ANY OFFICIAL COMMENT ON STORY, FIVE
LEADERS OF ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING TWO MEMBERS OF ITS
RULING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SAID IN INTERVIEWS HERE TODAY
THAT STORY CONFIRMED WHAT THEY HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT ABOUT
JORDANIAN MONARCH.

...THE PALESTINIANS HAVE AGREED TO ACCEPT A PALESTINIAN
MINI-STATE ON WEST BANK OF JORDAN RIVER AND IN GAZA STRIP
AND HAVE ALLOWED ARAB POWERS TO ENLARGE AND STACK PLO
NATIONAL COUNCIL -- ITS PARLIAMENT-IN-EXILE -- WITH
MODERATES. NEXT MONTH COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO REVISE
PALESTINE NATIONAL COVENANT SO THAT IT NO LONGER CALLS FOR
AN END TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL....

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TOSEC, BRIBERY, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, CHIEF OF STATE, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE038952
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMORDWAY:AVW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770060-0518
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770224/aaaaaur.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3254f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3272377
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE, SATURDAY, 19 FEBRUARY NO. 27 HERewith EXCERPTS FROM STUART AUERBACH ARTICLE HEA
TAGS: SOPN, US, WASHINGTON POST, CIA, PLO, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (HUSSEIN I), (AUERBACH, STUART)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3254f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009